Singareni Coalfields. The shortest route for this movement *via* Kazipet-Wadi being saturated, this coal has to be moved *via* Vijayawada-Renigunta rationalised longer route and freight charges are levied accordingly.

(c) The reasons for moving this coal by the longer route have been explained to the Government of Karnataka.

Modernisation of Government of India Press, Minto Road

1320. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of employees in the Government of India Press, Minto Road are facing the threat of retrenchment in view of the proposed modernisation of the Press;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard including the policy regarding retrenchment of employees; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Press authorities have been rejecting genuine requests of families of employees, who expired during the last three years for providing employment on compassionate grounds to atleast one member of each family in distress on the ground of proposed modernisation of the press in contravention of the declared policy of Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) On account of shrinkage in the staff strength in the wake of modernisation and consequent non-availability of vacancy, no new staff is being inducted in the press.

Import of Foodgrains

1321. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import foodgrains during this year; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). During 1989-90, while there was no import of wheat, a quantity of 5.24 lakh tonnes of rice has been imported against contracts signed during July to September, 1989—1.04 lakh tonnes from Thailand and 4.20 lakh tonnes from Vietnam. The Government have also accepted the proposal of the Government of Vietnam to repay about 44,980 tonnes of rice against the Food Loan of 1980, which is likely to be received during 1990-91. Besides this, there is at present no decision to import wheat and rice from any where.

Recommendations of the Minorities Commission to avert communal clashes in the country

1322. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the Minorities Commission in regard to avert communal clashes in the country; and

(b) what action has been taken on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) To avert communal clashes the Minorities Commission have made their recommendations in their Annual Reports and other forums like the Conference of Chairmen/Members of the Central and State Minorities Commissions/Boards etc. They relate mainly to the more effective implementation of the provisions under the relevant laws like the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act etc. The Commission have also recommended a number of steps to be taken by the local authorities and the State Governments in order to improve the communal situation.

The prevention of communal clashes being an important part of the maintenance of "law and order", is basically a State subject. The Central Government

in its advisory capacity, has been issuing guidelines to the State Governments, from time to time. These guidelines take into account the views of Minorities Commission also, and are periodically reviewed and revised.

Increase in the water supply to the residents of Delhi

1323. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plans have been worked out for increasing the supply of water to the residents of Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the same are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking has reported that it has planned taken several long term measures and short term measures (scheduled for completion within the current year) to increase the supply of drinking water in Delhi. Some of the measures are:—

SHORT TERM MEASURES

(i) Construction of 180 MLD water treatment plant at Wazirabad. First phase already completed.

(ii) Construction of 54 MLD Iron Removal Water Treatment Plant at Okhla.

(iii) Construction of 5 Ranney Wells in Alipur expected to yield about 67.50 MLD.

LONG TERM MEASURES

(i) Construction of econd 450 MLD Water Treatment Plant at Haiderpur (3 years).

(ii) Construction of 180 MLD (40 MGD) water treatment plant at Nangloi (2-3 years).

(iii) Construction of 450 MLD water treatment plant at Gokulpuri in trans-Yamuna (5-6 years).

Review of working of Fair Price Shops and Public Distribution System

1324. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a study conducted by the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry to the working of the Fair Price Shops and Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, what are the details of its findings and recommendations made therein; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) According to available information, the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) conducted a study on Agricultural Price Policy in India, the report of which *inter-alia* contains reference to the Public Distribution System (PDS). The main findings in the report regarding PDS in the context of Agricultural Price Policy from the consumers' point of view are that Public Distribution System has not been very effective, it is restricted primarily to urban centres, large section of the poor people are outside its purview and even those who are covered do not necessarily get the benefit of issue prices. Quotas are not lifted because of the poor quality of foodgrains and irregular supply by the Food Corporation of India. PDS has thus failed to serve its objectives but the burden on the exchequer is increasing.

(c) Although an indepth examination of the study report has not been made, its conclusions appear to be based on inadequate appreciation of the role of PDS and are, therefore, misleading. While there may be inadequacies in an operation of the magnitude of PDS covering the entire country through as many as over 3.5 lakhs fair price shops, it cannot but be